

As of January 1, 2014 registration is required to use crab pots off private shoreline property

Who needs to register?

The owner, lessee or tenant, or designated shoreline community association representative of shoreline property to the Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributary. Recreational crabbers in the Potomac River, Atlantic Ocean, coastal bays, and their tributaries do NOT need to register their crab pots.

What is the cost?

The registration is free.

Why is the registration required?

To provide improved information on recreational crabbing effort and to reach out to property owners to provide information about using turtle saving devices.

Who may use crab pots to harvest Blue Crabs recreationally?

Only an owner, lessee, tenant or guest of a private shoreline property owner may use crab pots to catch Blue Crabs recreationally. The maximum number of pots that can be used is two per property, regardless of the number of owners, lessees, or tenants. The crab pots must be clearly marked with the DNRid number, which is printed on the registration card.

What is the difference between this registration and a crabbing license?

The crab pot registration does not convey the privileges of a recreational crabbing license. In order to use other licensed gear such as a trotline, collapsible crab traps, net rings, seines, or eel pots, or to catch more than 2-dozen hard crabs with a limit of 1-bushel, or more than 1-dozen soft or peeler crabs with a limit of 2-dozen, you must have a crabbing license.

Refer to the [2014 Maryland Fishing Guide](#) for comprehensive crabbing rules and license information.

How do I register?

The online registration is quick and easy through the DNR Compass System --- <https://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal>, you may call 410-260-3220 for assistance or visit your local DNR Service Center.

DNR Service Centers are open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (except State holidays), call a center near you for directions or additional information.

Annapolis 410-260-3220	Centreville 410-819-4100	Rocky Gap 301-777-2134
Bel Air 410-836-4550	Prince Frederick	Salisbury 410-713-3840
Dundalk 410-284-1654	410-535-3382	

